

contained many provisions to improve the security clearance process. The law called for uniform policies and unity of responsibility for security clearances across the Federal Government. It required that security clearances issued by one agency be accepted by all agencies. To make that possible, it called for an integrated data base and for the evaluation of available information technologies. Finally, it set forth specific targets for the length of time that security clearance processes should take, and required annual progress reports.

During this Congress, our subcommittee has undertaken a thorough review of the process. We had round-table meetings with representatives of industry and with representatives of the Intelligence Community agencies. We carefully reviewed all reports submitted in response to the Intelligence Reform Act as well as GAO reports on security clearance reform in the Department of Defense. We held a series of open hearings with Administration witnesses and GAO to discuss accomplishments and areas where progress was lacking.

We found that though the Act has resulted in significant improvements in the clearance timelines, significant work remains to be done. The law requires full reciprocity of clearance investigations and adjudications, but provides no tools for measuring the implementation and success of such measures. The clearance data as it is reported to Congress does not provide adequate insight into the improvements that have been made. Aggregated data covers up poor performance by averaging it with excellent performance.

We provided the results of our oversight in an ICM Subcommittee Report which will be filed with the House. I'm pleased that all members of the Subcommittee were supportive of the Report, and it was reported out of committee on a unanimous voice vote.

This provision is designed to remedy the shortcomings we discovered in our report. It takes a new approach to reform, by requiring agencies to report to Congress annually on certain key metrics related to the security clearance process. These metrics would enable Congress and HPSCI to perform effective oversight over the security clearance process, would allow both branches to track improvements from year to year, and would allow agencies to judge the effectiveness of each other's security clearance process, improving confidence in the system. In a few areas where adequate metrics have not been developed, the Administration is required to propose metrics to Congress.

I hope that we will move this legislation as soon as possible, given the strong bipartisan support that it enjoys. It will improve our insight into the security clearance process, and by doing so, improve the process itself.

The security clearance process is key to our national security establishment and we must make sure that it works as efficiently as possible. An effective security clearance system keeps out those who pose a security risk, while quickly identifying those who are trustworthy to work in the system. For too long it has been a troubled system and I'm hopeful that it is getting back on track and this legislation would allow us to know for sure.

ACTION ON SEX ED

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I've seen my home state of California struggle with the Nation's highest teen pregnancy rate—the sad result being thousands of young women dealing with the catastrophic effects pregnancy can impose on their lives. They often lose out on the opportunity to obtain a high school diploma, a college degree or a promising career. For too many, dreams like these are lost at an early age.

In the early 1990s, California took on the challenge to fight this epidemic and focused hard on prevention. After a decade of implementing robust initiatives, the state had lowered the rate by nearly 40 percent. Much of the success is credited to better and more accurate comprehensive sex education.

Results like this are worth fighting for and this is why initiatives like Planned Parenthood's campaign—Sex Ed Week of Action—is vital to raise awareness about safe practices within our communities. These are tough, personal issues for all parents and families but as a mother and grandmother, I agree that they must be addressed.

California is making strides, but there is much more to be done nationwide. As a long-time champion of comprehensive sex education, I've voiced my opposition against unproven abstinence-only education here in Congress. It is an outrage that since 1996, the Federal Government has pursued an ideological and myopic path, investing more than a \$1 billion in abstinence-only programs. This has been a huge waste—and the studies prove it.

A report commissioned by the Department of Health and Human Services concludes that students receiving abstinence-only education are no more likely to abstain or delay sexual activity than students not receiving such instruction.

California also recognized that this is a bad investment for our teens and took a commendable step forward by rejecting these funds from the Federal Government. The medical community agrees too. According to the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association and the American School Health Association, scientifically sound comprehensive sex education is the only approach that produces results—not more unwanted pregnancies.

Empowering teens to make smart choices requires education that is proven to work—logical, right? The evidence is clear, comprehensive sex education is the best path to reducing unintended pregnancy, which is the goal we all share. We can't fail our teens by letting politics and ideology interfere with this basic right to information.

HONORING HOWARD BAKER

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, on September 24th I was pleased to attend a ceremony

sponsored by the U.S. Capitol Historical Society at which the 2008 Freedom Award was presented to former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, who served in the United States Senate for 18 years. Each year the Society presents this prestigious award to recognize the work that is done under the Capitol dome to defend freedom and preserve the institution of Congress as a representative body. At the start of each Congress, all of us as Members of Congress take an oath to support and defend the Constitution in our role, as the Founders intended, as defenders of the peoples' freedom. As a means of reminding the Congress of this solemn responsibility, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society bestows the Freedom Award annually upon a Member who personifies this spirit and who has demonstrated throughout his or her career a dedication to the institution of Congress and to the cause of freedom. Senator Baker's remarks at the ceremony were particularly relevant and moving, and I would like to take this opportunity to share his speech with my colleagues by entering his remarks into the RECORD:

REMARKS OF HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY FREEDOM AWARD, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

It is a great honor to be with you this evening, and it is an especially great honor to have been introduced by my dear friend and former colleague Bob Byrd.

In an unusual—perhaps even unprecedented—set of circumstances, Senator Byrd and I served as each other's majority and minority leaders for 8 very eventful years in the late 1970s and early 80s.

And while there are some things Senator Byrd and I disagree on, one thing on which we're in absolute agreement is that being majority leader is better.

My service in the Senate leadership was the culmination of three terms in the United States Senate. For much of my adult career I have served in Congress, or my family has, so some would describe me as a congressional brat—if so I am proud of it.

Having walked the halls of Congress with so many of its legendary figures—most definitely including Robert C. Byrd—and having worked on so many momentous issues with them, I have a special appreciation for the history of the Capitol that this Society does so much to preserve and protect and disseminate to an interested public.

And so it is particularly meaningful to me to be honored by the Capitol Historical Society this evening.

President Lincoln—who also served in Congress, though not, as you may suspect, with me—once wrote in a Message to Congress in the depths of the Civil War, "We cannot escape history. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down in honor or dishonor to the last generation."

The genius of our system of government is not that it requires a race of supermen to run it but that ordinary people can do extraordinary things for their fellow citizens when they have to. This very week, the Congress, in particular must face a new challenge on policy and legislation to stabilize and rescue our country's economic system.

To succeed it must be in the finest traditions of our legislative process, worthy of Webster and Clay, Johnson and Dirksen, Kennedy and Kassebaum, maybe even Baker and Byrd.

In earlier times, we dealt with Vietnam, Watergate, civil rights, the first environmental protection laws, Social Security reform, the cold war and much else on similar terms and with ultimate success.

I am sure that the men and women of the 110th Congress—Democrats, Republicans,